

The expansion of the activities of the **Panchayat Department** for the benefit of the rural population such as opening of new roads and canals, wells and tanks, not to speak of the impetus given to the spread of Ayurveda by grants to the institutions and by the opening of Vaidyasalas in numerous Panchayats with free supply of medicines has mainly contributed to the increase under the head. To the manifold activities of the Department have lately been added the measures taken for the treatment of snake poison. Centres for treatment have been opened in each Taluk besides a Central Institute as the 70th Birthday Boon of His Highness. For the spread of agriculture on improved methods no expenditure has been spared, and a forward policy has been followed by liberal grants to the Central Farm, by annual exhibitions in each Taluk and by the entertainment of highly qualified experts got trained by grant of scholarships to carry to the ryots' door the knowledge of scientific methods of agriculture. To carry on investigations and researches in connection with the agricultural development a laboratory has just been opened in the Central Farm, and it is being fully equipped. The opening of model farms in each Taluk is also engaging the attention of the Government. Opening of Parks for the public as at Ernakulam and Trichur has been another fresh branch of activity of the Department. Liberal grants have been made besides for agricultural loans, and the people would surely be benefited very much. The vigorous scheme of the disafforestation of lands for which a special officer was appointed and assignment of such lands with a view to throw open more area for agriculture is nearing completion.

Co operative Department is another agency closely allied to Agriculture in the task of improving the condition of the poor ryots by saving them from the clutches of money-lenders and by instilling in their minds the habits of thrift and economy, and its activities were considerably extended. With the increase in the number of societies, of members and of the working capital it has been found necessary to increase the staff of the Department. Supervising Unions have lately been formed and grants are made therefor.

Medical and Sanitation.—The growth of the expenditure under the head is the direct result of the purchase of a larger quantity of medicines, larger provisions made for dietary charges, entertainment of larger staff of doctors, nurses, etc., to cope with the growing needs, the opening of rural dispensaries, etc. The X-Ray Department introduced during the period is growing in popularity, and the construction of the Pay Ward is meeting a long-felt want.